

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAIME IGNASCIO ESTRADA,) No. C 10-4832 LHK (PR)
Plaintiff,) ORDER DENYING MOTION
v.) FOR PRELIMINARY
C. MALO-CLINES and J. TORRANCE,) INJUNCTION; ORDER OF
Defendants.) PARTIAL DISMISSAL; ORDER
) OF SERVICE; DIRECTING
) DEFENDANT TO FILE
) DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR
) NOTICE REGARDING SUCH
) MOTION

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging that two Pelican Bay State Prison (“PBSP”) officials violated his constitutional rights. Plaintiff is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. For the reasons stated below, the Court denies Plaintiff’s motion for preliminary injunction, dismisses one Defendant and orders service on the other.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the Court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v.*

Pacifica Police Dep’t., 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

B. Motion for Preliminary Injunction¹

Plaintiff filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to compel Defendants to provide him with methadone and gebepatin three times daily to manage his pain, which results from mild degenerative disc disease, osteoarthritis, and sciatica. Plaintiff did not give notice of his motion to Defendants, show what steps he took to try to give them notice, or satisfactorily explain why Defendants should not be given notice of his request. *See Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(a)(1).* Further, the parties have not yet been served. *See Zepeda v. INS*, 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1983).

Accordingly, the motion is DENIED without prejudice.

B. Plaintiff's Claims

Liberally construed, Plaintiff states a cognizable claim of deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs against Defendant Malo-Clines. However, it appears that Plaintiff's only complaint against Defendant Torrance is that Torrance screened out Plaintiff's administrative appeal. There is no constitutional right to a prison administrative appeal or grievance system. *See Ramirez v. Galaza*, 334 F.3d 850, 860 (9th Cir. 2003). Plaintiff does not otherwise link Torrance to any other allegation of a constitutional violation. Accordingly, Defendant Torrance is DISMISSED from this action without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the court hereby orders as follows:

1. The Clerk shall issue a summons, and the United States Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, copies of the complaint in this matter (docket no. 1), all attachments

¹ Plaintiff's motion to supplement his declaration attached to his motion for preliminary injunction is GRANTED.

thereto, and copies of this order on **Dr. C. Malo-Clines** at **PBSP in Crescent City, CA**. The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Plaintiff and mail a courtesy copy of the complaint to the California Attorney General's Office.

2. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, Defendant shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the cognizable claims in the complaint.

a. If Defendant elects to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that Plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003).

b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. **Defendant is advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendant is of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and served on Defendant no later than **thirty (30) days** from the date Defendant's motion is filed.

a. In the event Defendant files an unenumerated motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b), Plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:²

The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not exhausted your administrative remedies. The motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony) and/or documents, you may not simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your

² The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be given to pro se prisoners as set forth in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1 claims. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to
 2 dismiss, if appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

3 b. In the event Defendant files a motion for summary judgment, the
 4 Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to plaintiffs:

5 The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which
 6 they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under
 7 Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

8 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for
 9 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is
 10 no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact
 11 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary
 12 judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case.
 13 When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is
 14 properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply
 15 rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in
 16 declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents,
 17 as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants'
 18 declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact
 19 for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary
 20 judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is
 21 granted in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no
 22 trial.

23 See *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). Plaintiff is advised to read
 24 Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317
 25 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence showing
 26 triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that
 27 failure to file an opposition to Defendant's motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a
 28 consent by Plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against Plaintiff
 without a trial. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v.
 Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

29 4. Defendant shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after Plaintiff's
 30 opposition is filed.

31 5. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No
 32 hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

33 6. All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendant,
 34 or Defendant's counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the

1 document to Defendant or Defendant's counsel.

2 7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

3 No further Court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

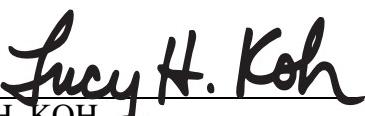
4 For Plaintiff's information, the proper manner of promulgating discovery is to send
5 demands for documents or interrogatories (questions asking for specific, factual responses)
6 directly to Defendant's counsel. *See Fed. R. Civ. P. 33-34.* The scope of discovery is limited to
7 matters "relevant to the claim or defense of any party . . ." *See Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).*

8 Discovery may be further limited by court order if "(i) the discovery sought is unreasonably
9 cumulative or duplicative, or is obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less
10 burdensome, or less expensive; (ii) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity by
11 discovery in the action to obtain the information sought; or (iii) the burden or expense of the
12 proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2). In order to comply
13 with the requirements of Rule 26, before deciding to promulgate discovery Plaintiff may find it
14 to his benefit to wait until Defendant has filed a dispositive motion which could include some or
15 all of the discovery Plaintiff might seek. In addition, no motion to compel will be considered by
16 the Court unless the meet-and-confer requirement of Rule 37(a)(2)(B) and N.D. Cal. Local Rule
17 37-1 has been satisfied. Because Plaintiff is detained, he is not required to meet and confer with
18 Defendant in person. Rather, if his discovery requests are denied, and he intends to seek a
19 motion to compel, he must send a letter to Defendant to that effect, offering him one last
20 opportunity to provide him with the sought-after information.

21 8. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court
22 and all parties informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a
23 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute
24 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 DATED: 12/27/2010


27 LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge